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VOLUME LXIII, NUMBER 19893

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1996 • TISHREI 20, 5757 • 21 JAMAD 1, 1417

NIS 4.50 (Eilat NIS 3.80)

## Netanyahu, Arafat agree to non-stop talks

HILLEL KUTTLER and news agencies  
WASHINGTON

ISRAEL and the Palestinians yesterday agreed to hold round-the-clock negotiations, starting Sunday, on redeployment from Hebron and security matters.

US President Bill Clinton insisted at yesterday's conclusion of the two-day emergency summit that, while the crisis has not been resolved and the parties remain far apart, the talks had succeeded in reuniting Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat to the negotiating table.

these parties are in better shape in their relations with one another than they were two days ago," Clinton said.

"Please, please give us a chance to let this thing work in the days ahead."

Senior Israeli officials said Netanyahu refused to agree to a target date of any kind for concluding the Erez talks, on the grounds that a deadline would foster undue pressure.

"A date certain is a certain way to obstruct the negotiations,"



President Bill Clinton, flanked by PA President Yasser Arafat and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, faces journalists following the White House press conference last night at which only Clinton spoke.

### Government claims victory, Palestinians dismayed, Page 2

Clinton announced he was dispatching special Middle East coordinator Dennis Ross to manage the talks that are to take place at the Erez checkpoint.

"When we compare where we are today to where we were a week ago, are we in better shape? Yes. Are we where I'd like to be? No," Clinton said at a press conference after the summit.

Clinton stated that Israel and the PA reaffirmed their commitment to refrain from resorting to violence. That demand was essential to Israel's agenda here, in light of last week's firing by Palestinian policemen on IDF troops.

Clinton, determined to head off further violence, appealed to the residents of the region to allow the sides to carry out their determination to complete the negotiations.

"I ask the people of the Middle East, the Palestinians and others, to give us a few more days to let things unfold, give us a few more days to see that when these negotiations start, where they proceed in good faith, whether progress can be made. I guess the message I want to send across the Middle East is: I'm convinced that this process and

Netanyahu later told reporters at his hotel.

He said the meetings helped "cement the principle that the path to peace is through negotiations, not through violence."

He also said that two panels would tackle redeployment and security matters in the push toward an agreement, and said he and Foreign Minister David Levy, and Arafat and Mahmoud Abbas were prepared to shepherd it through.

One senior Israeli official said the talks had succeeded in generating a level of cooperation between the two leaders that was absent following their initial meeting last month.

"I don't want to say that there won't be problems, but there's a basis for trust and progress between the parties that wasn't there after the Erez meeting," he said.

A grave looking Clinton, standing before an equally solemn Netanyahu, Arafat and King Hussein, told the press conference that Netanyahu and Arafat "understand the choice they face" as being between "cooperation and conflict, between progress and aggression, between hope and fear."

He answered questions from reporters, but said that at the initiative of the parties, he would speak on their behalf. By group agreement, Netanyahu, Arafat and King Hussein took a vow of silence for the final ceremony, naming Clinton their spokesmen and refusing reporters' appeals for comment.

Clinton finally turned and invited his guests to speak if they wished, laughing and saying he had performed "a miracle" of silence when they smilingly declined.

Clinton lauded the leaders' commitment to restore the peace process following last week's violence, and called this week's primary achievement their reaching "a higher level of understanding and a

higher level of trust that existed before these talks began.

"They were not able to resolve their differences here, but to be fair, when we came together there were no advance guarantees that there would be large-scale substantive negotiations. We knew we would only have about a day-and-a-half to work here, and they got the most

out of it," Clinton said.

"The agreement that was made here to immediately restart these negotiations, and to do them on a full-time basis until agreement is reached on the critical issues, including Hebron, is encouraging to me, and I think it comes out of... a sense of urgency given what has happened in the region."

Arafat skipped a scheduled post-summit news conference and prepared to leave Washington without offering his own public assessment of the talks.

Netanyahu was not at all reticent, holding a news conference to bail the outcome.

"There is a greater degree of mutual understanding than there was two days ago and this will increase in time, I hope," he said.

Meanwhile, Egypt said yesterday that progress towards Middle East peace needed action, not just more promises from Netanyahu.

A senior Egyptian official, commenting on the summit's outcome, said the meeting did not seem to have bridged the gap between Israelis and the Palestinians.

"The differences remain the same and the whole exercise ended in more promises, more pledges. But promises and pledges by Netanyahu are not enough, what we need is deeds," said the official, who asked not to be named.

"If there are no moves, it will be a catastrophe," he added. "Throwing stones [by Palestinians] will look mild in comparison to what might happen."

The Egyptian official said Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak had no need to justify his decision to stay away from the summit, which Egypt thought needed greater preparation.

Mubarak has also said he decided not to go when he realized that Netanyahu did not intend to make any gestures, even on the opening of a new entrance in a tunnel in Jerusalem which led to last week's violence between Israeli troops and Palestinians.

"Such a summit should have had an agenda, some advance footwork by foreign ministers, details of points of disagreement and proposals for solving them. That is how summit are done," said the official. "But I do share President Clinton's view that something had to be done. He did his maximum... He took a risk and we appreciate that," he added.

### 2 soldiers wounded in south Lebanon

DAVID RUDGE

TWO IDF soldiers were wounded, one seriously and the other moderately, in an attack on their outpost in the security zone yesterday.

They were both evacuated by helicopter to Haifa's Rambam Hospital. One soldier was reported to be suffering from serious head injuries, and the second from limb wounds caused by shrapnel.

Gunmen believed to be from Hizbullah opened fire with mortars and Sagger anti-tank missiles at the Razlan position, in the northeastern sector of the security zone.

At least one round appears to have directly hit the compound, wounding the soldiers, both members of an infantry unit.

One of the missiles also hit a tank near the perimeter of the position, causing some minor damage but no casualties. IDF gunners returned fire.

Reports from Lebanon said IAF helicopter gunships also fired a number of missiles at Hizbullah targets north of the zone.

According to Beirut radio reports, gunmen fired SAM-7 shoulder-held missiles at the helicopters, but missed.

There were no immediate reports of Hizbullah casualties. The Razlan position, which is manned by SLA troops with IDF support, also came under mortar and anti-tank missile fire earlier in the morning. There were no casualties, and IDF gunners returned fire.

Both Hizbullah and Amal have intensified their activities against the IDF and the SLA in the security zone since the end of the Lebanese elections.

There are now reports that rejectionist Palestinian organizations will also try to carry out attacks in reaction to the recent fighting in the territories.

### Netanyahu: Principle, not pretext

ANALYSIS  
DAVID MAKOVSKY

FOR Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, refusal to make immediate concessions, despite US and Palestinian insistence, was a matter of principle, not expediency.

The principle in question for Netanyahu is "no political concessions as a result of violence."

He also refused to either set a target date for Hebron redeployment or yield on other matters, such as naming a date for the start of talks on the final disposition of the territories.

Moreover, he made clear his view that a binding deadline on Hebron guarantees that Israeli security concerns will not be taken seriously, but that the Palestinians will play out the clock.

Therefore, everyone is going to be looking at the second act of this drama beginning next week at Erez junction, when talks on Hebron begin.

While saying that Israel cannot yield under pressure, he did tell the Palestinians and Americans that there were carrots, not just sticks. Israel could make concessions after there is a "stabilization period" in the aftermath of the violence.

For example, Israel could move forward on Hebron and end the so-called "inner closure," which does not let Palestinians move from city to city in the territories.

Moreover, the first wide-ranging three-and-a-half-hour personal discussion between Netanyahu and Arafat seemed to leave hope that "there is now a basis for dialogue," a senior official in Netanyahu's party said.

Their talks included Netanyahu relating anecdotes

about when he was a soldier and fought Arafat's forces in Karameh in 1970.)

However, Netanyahu refused to offer an immediate gesture. While US exasperation may have reached its height during a meeting early yesterday between Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Netanyahu aides, President Bill Clinton seemed willing to give the negotiations more time.

His own words and body language showed that he also wanted more, but he appeared to accept Netanyahu's sincerity and his appeal to give the talks a chance.

Yasser Arafat's only comfort may be that US envoy Dennis Ross will be involved in the Erez talks, signalling US interests.

Some say Clinton's refusal to press Netanyahu hard may be due to the upcoming US elections. Others point to the limited maneuvering room Netanyahu has inside his own cabinet.

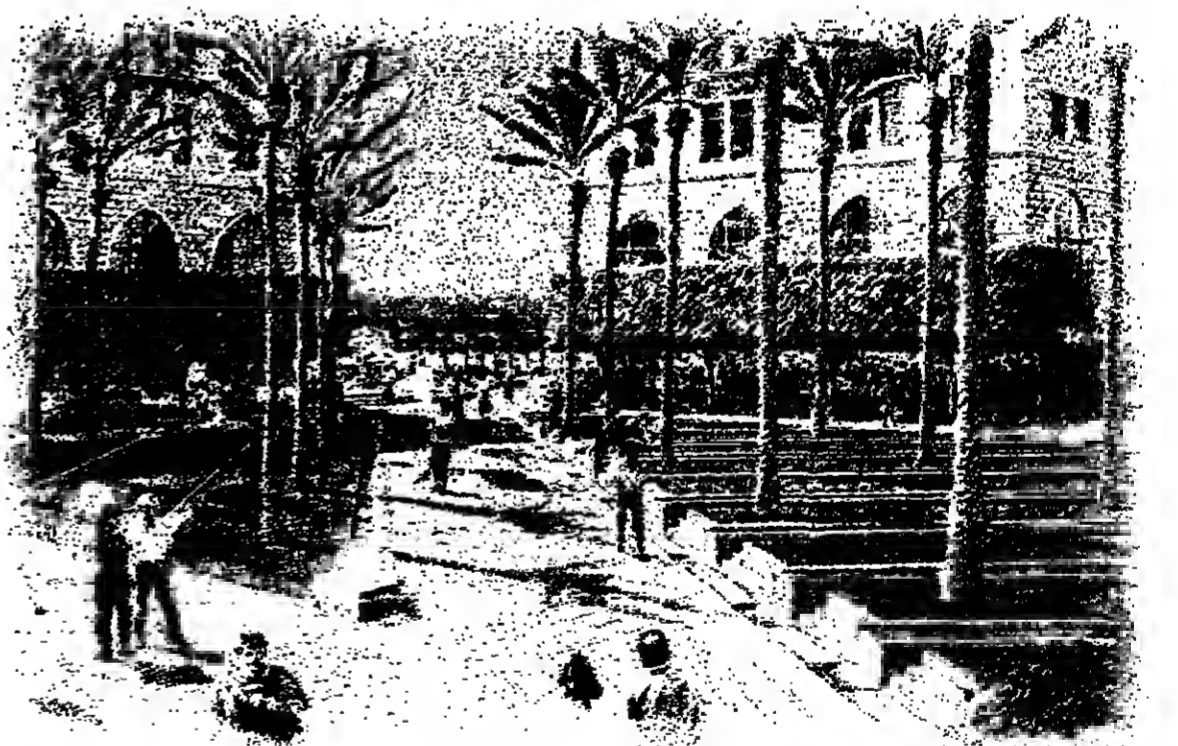
Netanyahu also sought to change American and Palestinian mind sets.

Israel entered the talks with many believing that it must pay for its political blunder in opening the Hasmonean Tunnel by making a concession to the Palestinians. However, by bringing senior military personnel to the talks, Netanyahu sought to explain that the violence had caused an utter collapse in the military's confidence in security coordination with its Palestinian counterparts.

Netanyahu believes that deeds on the ground, not words in Washington demonstrated that he was indeed motivated by principle and not by expediency.

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# Yigal, Haggai Amir, Dror Adani to be sentenced today

TEL AVIV District Court Judges Amnon Strashnov, Ze'ev Hamer, and Shelly Timco are this morning expected to sentence assassin Yigal Amir, his brother Haggai, and Dror Adani, who were convicted on charges of plotting to murder prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, co-spying to harm Palestinians and their property, and illegal possession of firearms and explosives.

**RAINE MARCUS**  
court to act leniently, while prosecutor Penina Guy is expected to request maximum punishments, to run concurrently. Sources said that defense lawyers are not expected to bring character witnesses to testify in favor of their clients.

**David Rudge adds:**  
Police are investigating an incident at a Karmiel school in which a slogan praising Yigal Amir was found scrawled on the floor of the schoolyard. The spokesman for the Galilee police district said a complaint had been received about the matter from staff at the elementary and junior high school.



Children play with snakes and help feed pelicans at the Jerusalem Biblical Zoo at an event sponsored by 'Pashosh,' the children's magazine of the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel.

## US national, accused of murder, takes witness stand in Haifa

**ARVIN JOHNSON** took the witness stand yesterday in Haifa District Court. He is accused of murdering his former girlfriend, Ganit Tsimman. In response to questions by defense attorney Hezi Harlaff, the US national - in a soft-spoken mix of English and Hebrew - described an unusual adolescence that led to his coming here.

**ESTHER HECHT**  
with ... family," and it was this aspect of her life that most attracted him. But Tsimman repeatedly tried to end their romantic relationship and by the last week of February everything seemed to be going wrong for him, he said. He had to borrow money to pay the last installment of his tuition and he failed all but one of his exams. Having decided to commit suicide, he took a knife and a poisonous fluid from a home where he worked as a cleaner.

He then went to his room and tried to commit suicide by stabbing himself, Johnson told the court. When he realized he would not succeed that way, he drank the poison. Prosecutor Nurit Gruber's summation, however, had a very different version of the events since last November: Tsimman had tried to break off not only the romantic relationship but all contact with the defendant, who kept phoning her. He stole the knife not to kill himself, but to kill Tsimman, Gruber said as she unwrapped the knife and showed it to the judges. As she did so, the victim's mother, who had sat nearby motionless throughout the proceedings, lowered her head.

## Arab security service worker petitions court against Tira school's refusal to enroll his children

**EVELYN GORDON**  
AN Arab who works for Israel's security services petitioned the High Court of Justice yesterday against the village of Tira's refusal to allow his children to enroll in the local schools. According to his petition, Jallal Amar has been working for the security services since 1979. Originally a resident of Kalkilya, he recently moved to Tira - at the security services' suggestion - due to repeated attacks and threats on his life in his native town. He bought a house in Tira and then tried to register his three children for school. Two were supposed to start first grade this year, and the third

should have started kindergarten. However, the school refused to take the children, saying their registration had not been approved, and told Amar to consult with the mayor. The mayor said approval had to be given by the official in charge of Islamic education in the town, while this latter insisted that it was the mayor who had sole authority over the issue. After being bounced back and forth between the two, as well as other officials, several times without result, Amar said he was

finally told by the mayor, Tayar Abdel Hai, that his children would never be allowed to learn in Tira. "We don't accept the children of collaborators," Hai said, according to Amar. "It would be better for you to leave town. We're willing to buy your house." Amar therefore petitioned the High Court, charging that the town's decision not to accept his children is completely unjustifiable. Furthermore, the delay is causing irreparable harm to the children, he said, as they have already missed a month of school.

The festival ended Tuesday night in an upbeat mood despite initial fears that the current security situation might have forced its cancellation. "We had to field hysterical phone calls most of the first day," admitted festival spokesperson Rachel Goldblatt. However, Khan actor Bassam Zuhair set the tone the first day when he said that "at Acre, Arab and Jew sit down together, work together. The peace is here."

## Appeals court reinstates Israeli's lawsuit against NYC

**NEW YORK (AP)** - A state appeals court reinstated a \$12.5 million suit filed against the Transit Authority by an Israeli who was beaten, kicked, stabbed, and robbed on a subway train and left partly blind and deaf. The State Supreme Court's Appellate Division said Tuesday that because David Levy, 47, requested and was promised transit police help when he felt threatened, they assumed responsibility for his safety. The decision means the city can take the case to trial, appeal to the state Court of Appeals, or settle with Levy.

Gail Rubin, spokeswoman for the city Corporation Counsel's Office, said, "We are studying the decision and reviewing our options." Levy, who lives in Rishon LeZion, arrived in the city on March 1, 1991. A geological engineer, he was looking for job opportunities here and elsewhere, said his lawyer Paul McAlone. After checking into a hotel, Levy went out, court papers say. When he asked for directions to Fifth Avenue, a hotel clerk suggested he take the subway.

## 'Arab Dream,' 'Harvest Nights' win top honors at Acre theater festival

**HELEN KAYE**  
**ARAB DREAM** and **HARVEST NIGHTS** by, respectively, the Acre Theater Center/Diwan and the Beit Hagefen Theater were jointly named Best Production at the 1996 Acre Festival of Alternative Theater. **Metamorphosis**, Ron Weidberg's opera based on Kafka's story, received an honorable mention. The award for Best Actor went to Amos Lavi, with Orna Katz and Hagit Dasberg sharing Best Actress honors.

The festival's big surprise and big hit was the "Hotbox," the collection named given to five plays by young theater artists, some still in high school. As expected, **And Now for Candies** a study in loneliness written, directed and designed by Ravid Davara, won Best Production.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

**Three workers hurt in accidents**  
An explosion occurred in a Ma'alot chemical factory early yesterday, causing serious burns to one worker, who was brought to Haifa's Rambam Hospital for treatment. Another worker suffered light injuries. In another incident yesterday, a 23-year-old worker was moderately injured when a beam fell on his head at a construction site in Ramat Gan. A Magen David Adom ambulance brought him to Tel Aviv's Ichilov Hospital. *Itim*

**Succot event set today in Arazim Valley**  
Under the slogan "Let Jerusalem Breathe," the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel and the Arazim Residents Action Committee have arranged a Succot event of tours and entertainment in the Arazim Valley at the western entrance to the capital today. The "happening" is aimed as a solidarity gesture for the conservationists demand to turn the valley into a national park and stop plans for massive construction among the woodland and vineyards. The walking tours, of different lengths will start between 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. from the school on Rehov Hashalom in Mevasser Zion; the Lifta parking lot; the Kipod Park (Rehov Hahoresh) in Ramot; and Bayit Ha'adom in Lower Motza. All tours will end at a gathering with songs and entertainment, in the presence of MKs and local officials, at 3:30 p.m. in the "thatch" along Nahal Hallim. *Liat Collins*

**Levi named Israel Festival music consultant**  
Conductor Joel Levi has been named as music consultant for the 1997 and 1998 Israel festivals. The 1998 festival will be a part of the country's 50th anniversary celebrations. Levi, who is music director of the Atlanta Symphony, was born in Romania, educated in Israel and served for six years as assistant to Lorin Maazel at the Cleveland Symphony. *Helen Kaye*

## Five stolen taxis were taken to West Bank last month

**THIEVES** attacked a cabbie on Tuesday night, lightly injuring him, and stole his taxi. This was the sixth taxi stolen in the center of the country over the past month. The thieves fled into the territories. According to police, the driver picked up four men in Tel Aviv and was asked to take them to Kafr Yama, just inside the Green Line. When he was close to the village, he was attacked by the thieves, one of whom had a knife. Dep.-Cmdr. Menashe Arviv, head of the Taibe police station, said the identity of the thieves, who reside in the territories, is known to police, but there is no chance of apprehending them once they reach the Palestinian Authority-controlled area. In September, two cabs were stolen in the Sharon Police District, one in the Iron District, one in Petah Tikva, and one in Kiryat Ono. A special unit of the Taibe police has managed to apprehend a gang - three Gaza men and one from Kafr Kasim - and they have already been charged with several counts of auto theft. *(Itim)*

## Drug crimes on rise among youth

**THE** number of police files opened against youths suspected of various drug-related crimes increased 39 percent in the first half of the year, according to figures presented to the Union of Local Authorities yesterday. In the past six months, 530 drug-related files have been opened against youths, compared with 381 in the same period last year, and 183 in 1994. However, there was a drop in general criminal files against youths to 4,567, compared with 4,753 last year. ULA education committee head Shmuel Abuav has asked Education Minister Zevulun Hammer and Police Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz to launch an "uncompromising war" against the phenomenon of drug parties in which "youth are enticed into the destructive use of drugs." He also asked Hammer to instruct security guards at all schools to prevent drug dealers from coming near schools and to report all incidents to police. *(Itim)*

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# All 70 on board presumed dead after Peru jet crash

ALL 70 passengers and crew were feared dead after a Peruvian Aeroperu airliner crashed into the Pacific north of Lima en route to Chile early yesterday.

The Peruvian government and Aeroperu officials both blamed a technical failure on the Boeing 757-200 for the accident, which claimed victims from 11 countries.

"We have listened to the recordings of the pilot," Transportation Minister Elsa Carrera de Escalante said in a radio interview. "It seems there was a blockage in the computer system."

She quoted from a transcript of a message by the pilot, Eric Schreiber, to Lima air traffic control. "I am reducing engine power, but the plane is still accelerating," were Schreiber's final words, according to Carrera.

The Peruvian navy said one of its search planes discovered the wreckage of the airliner soon after 9 a.m. local time. Admiral Cesar Chavez told reporters a white fuselage, split in

two, was spotted floating on the sea about 60 km west of the coast-line.

"We have not found any survivors," he said. Other rescue workers said 10 bodies were seen floating in the ocean during a flyover.

At a news conference, Aeroperu officials listed 30 victims from Chile, 20 from Peru, including the nine-man crew, six from Mexico, four from the United States, two from Italy, two from Great Britain, two from Ecuador, and one each from New Zealand, Spain, Colombia and Venezuela.

Of the passengers, 21 had boarded the fatal flight after connecting from Miami, according to Aeroperu Miami operations manager Raul Chiappo.

Earlier, hopes of finding survivors diminished as helicopters combed the sea close to the crash site and reported oozing but oil stains

and objects near the coast that looked like baggage.

Aeroperu spokeswoman Marcela Velarde said the plane was carrying 61 passengers and nine crew.

Officials of Boeing, engine maker Pratt & Whitney, the US Federal Aviation Administration and the National Transportation Safety Board, were headed to the crash site to assist Peruvian investigators.

The jet left Lima at 12:32 a.m. local time en route to the Chilean capital of Santiago, according to Aeroperu. It reported technical problems and lost contact at 1:10 a.m. before apparently trying to return to Lima and then crashing off Pasamayo, 87 km north of the capital.

The crash, one of the worst in Peru's aviation history, came seven months after a Boeing 737 belonging to local Faucett airline crashed and killed all 123 people on board near Peru's second city, Arequipa. (Reuters)

# Taleban, Masood prepare for battle in Afghanistan

KABUL (Reuters) - Afghanistan's Islamic Taleban militia and the forces of former government military chief Ahmad Shah Masood were ready for battle yesterday, with the militia poised at the door of Masood's valley stronghold.

However, the militia appeared to be backing away from a standoff with powerful warlord General Abdul Rashid Dostum, apparently moving to head off a potential alliance between the northern leader and Masood.

Masood declared a state of emergency in the Panjsher Valley and ordered an evacuation in anticipation of an attack.

The Taleban have bottled up the valley after sweeping north from Kabul over the past few days, capturing Golbahaar town 10 km away. The militia now controls three-quarters of Afghanistan.

The mostly ethnic Pashtun mil-

itia had said it would attack the Panjsher Valley if Masood did not surrender.

But there was no sign among Masood's mostly ethnic Tajik men in the Panjsher that surrender was under consideration. All the activity was aimed at preparing defenses.

Hundreds of women, children and the elderly clambered out of the valley to head for safety into territory controlled by the Taleban. The only people going in were men of fighting age.

If the Taleban did attack the Panjsher, they would enter it only with enormous difficulty.

Masood's defense of the valley against repeated Soviet assaults in the 1980s won him a reputation as one of the best guerrilla chiefs in the war against the then Moscow-backed communist government.

After Masood and northern warlord Dostum appeared to be explor-

ing an alliance on Tuesday, Taleban Acting Deputy Foreign Minister Sher Mohammad Stanakzai told reporters he had no quarrel with Dostum.

Stanakzai spoke on Wednesday as Taleban fighters were squaring off against Dostum's Jumbish-i-Milli militia at the mouth of the Salang tunnel, which forms part of the strategic Salang highway, a vital link between Kabul and the north of the country and the former Soviet republics of Central Asia beyond.

Dostum, who controls large portions of northern Afghanistan, has managed to distance his forces from the fighting between Taleban and the former Kabul government, which he also opposed.

Tanks, heavy artillery and multiple launch Grad missiles of Dostum were dug in at both ends of the Salang tunnel yesterday.

# Bulgarian ex-PM killed, terrorism crackdown urged

SOFIA (Reuters) - Bulgarian President Zhelyu Zhelev urged uncompromising measures to fight terrorism after the murder of former prime minister Andrei Lukanov yesterday, but parliament said the act should not lead to a state of emergency.

"Decisive and uncompromising measures in the framework of the law are needed against all acts of terrorism," Zhelev said, describing Lukanov's murder as political.

Lukanov, 58, a millionaire businessman and parliamentarian for the ruling Socialists, was found shot dead at his Sofia home. State radio said he had been probably killed at around 9.30 a.m.

"The tragic case with Andrei Lukanov shows again that the fight against terrorism, organized crime and the mafia requires the united efforts of all institutions and cooperation with all countries," Zhelev said in an address to the nation.

State radio said the gun used to kill Lukanov may have been fitted with a silencer since neighbors had not heard any noise.



British Labor Party leader Tony Blair (center), accompanied by education spokesman David Blunkett, visit school pupils yesterday at the Burnt Naze Primary School in Blackpool before the start of the third day of the Labor Party Conference. Blunkett was expected to address the conference and announce plans for literacy summer schools for children having difficulty in reading. (Reuters)

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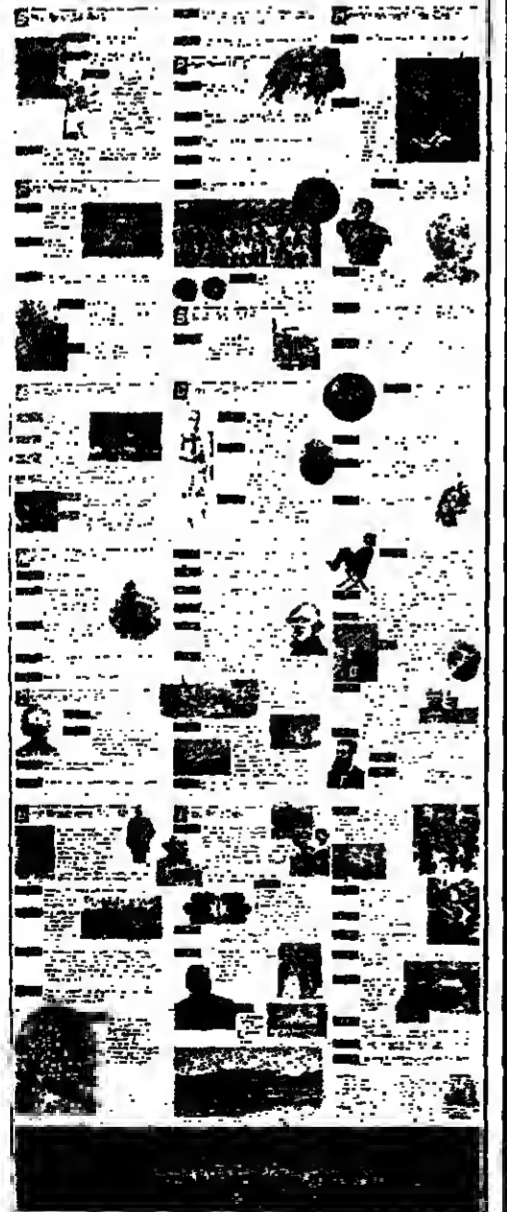
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# Britain's octuplet mother loses last four babies

LONDON (Reuters) - A British woman who decided to go ahead with trying to give birth to octuplets against doctors' advice miscarried the last four of her babies yesterday, the hospital where she is being treated said.

Mandy Allwood, 31, lost three of her babies in the 19th week of her pregnancy on Monday. Doctors said then that it would be a miracle if the rest of the babies survived.

Another died early yesterday and the last four were miscarried in the late afternoon.

"We regret to announce that Mandy Allwood has now lost her four remaining babies," King's College Hospital in London said in a statement.

Allwood, a divorced single mother, was determined to go ahead and try to have all eight babies despite medical advice that they would fail to survive or be born severely handicapped.

Her decision in August to try to become the first woman in the world to give birth to eight babies made headlines in Britain and around the world.

Controversy mounted when a tabloid newspaper offered her a £1 million (\$1.5 million) contract if all the babies were born alive.

Allwood became pregnant after taking powerful fertility drugs and ignoring medical advice to avoid sex for a while.

Doctors warned her it would be better to abort some of the fetuses to give the others a chance of survival. She refused.

# Former French Scientologists testify of intense pressure

LYON, France (Reuters) - Former followers of the French Church of Scientology accused it in court yesterday of applying intense mental pressure and extracting large sums of money from those who joined it.

"I suffered a lot," said Marie-There Massard, 60, with tears in her eyes as she spoke of sessions of questioning by church officers at which she had to stand against a wall with arms apart.

"They shouted at me and pulled me," said Massard who told the court that she gave the church a million francs (\$200,000) over four years.

Roman Catholic priest Louis-Michel Broiles, 53, said the Church of Scientology with which he flirted received 500,000 francs (\$100,000) from him for "purification sessions." He said he had received the money from an elderly woman.

"It is completely different from the Catholic church because there is no God in it," he said.

The ex-followers were testifying at the trial of 23 French Scientologists in the central city of Lyon in a case expected to provide a rare glimpse of the organization's inner workings.

The trial, which began on

Monday and is expected to last seven days, was triggered by the 1988 suicide of a church follower in Lyon.

Prosecutors accuse the church of "exploiting the good faith and gullibility of its victims for commercial profit, through pseudo-scientific and paramedical means, to their financial detriment and at their medical and psychological risk."

If found guilty, the defendants face up to five years in jail and fines of up to five million francs (\$1 million) on charges ranging from manslaughter to embezzlement to fraud and complicity.

# Defiant Suu Kyi says 800 arrested

RANGOON (Reuters) - Opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, defying Burmese government attempts to gag her, slipped by police barricades barring access to her home yesterday and told reporters up to 800 democracy activists had been arrested.

Her estimate was sharply higher than that of the ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), which said 559 of her National League for Democracy (NLD) party members and supporters had been arrested since last Thursday.

"We think it is nearer 800," said the 1991 Nobel Peace laureate said when told of the number of detentions declared by the military government on Tuesday.

# New York seven-year-old in sexual harassment flap

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Just 10 days after a six-year-old North Carolina boy was suspended from school for kissing a girl on the cheek, a seven-year-old New York boy suffered a similar fate but had his suspension lifted yesterday.

Education officials said De'Andre Dearing, who was suspended for five days this week on a charge of sexual harassment after he kissed a classmate and pulled a buttock off her skirt at a public school in Queens, would be able to return to school today.

"The principal made the decision based on the facts that she had at the moment and possibly the use with a seven-year-old of the term 'sexual harassment' was inappropriate but certainly the behavior dictated a closer look at what the child did," the school's deputy superintendent Kenneth Grover told reporters.

The *New York Daily News* reported that the boy admitted to his mother he had kissed the girl "because I like her" and had taken the buttock because his favorite book is *Corduroy* about a bear with a missing button.

In Lexington, North Carolina, six-year-old Jonathan Prevette was suspended for a day from school last month after he kissed a girl on the cheek.

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# Take a good look at expiration date of food products

**Y**EARS ago, a camera crew from the evening news entered a local supermarket to get some footage of the average Israeli shopper during times of extreme inflation.

"How much does milk cost today?" asked the eager reporter, as he thrust his microphone under the chin of a woman poring over a liter bag.

"I don't know, and couldn't care less," she said, still carefully studying the bag. "I have to buy milk no matter what it costs."

"Then why are you scanning the label so intently?" the puzzled reporter wanted to know.

"I'm looking for the expiration date," she said.

I remember laughing when I saw this little item on the news. Today, I could cry when I contemplate all the precious time wasted while forced to engage in similar supermarket pursuits.

Particularly enraging is the phenomenon of purchasing a food product with a satisfactory expiration date, only to discover that the food is spoiled anyway.

G.R. bought a few packets of Marina vermicelli rice at the market. The sticker label on each packet said "produced 10/1/96; best before 10/1/98."

Upon arriving home, G.R. peeled off the stickers. To his dismay, he was met with a very different label, reading "produced 10/1/94; best before 10/1/96."

## CAVEAT EMPTORI RUTHIE BLUM

This discrepancy of two years made G.R. feel duped by Marina, the Israeli importer of the rice, which comes from Bangkok. He wants to know whether importers can get away with buying old products and selling them with labels misleading the consumer into believing they are fresh.

Import and marketing manager of Marina foods, Yossi Attar attributes the label discrepancy to packaging alone.

"In order to do business with the company in Thailand which produces the rice [as well as other food products], we are forced to commit to purchasing a certain size of shipment," he explained. "The packets in which the rice is packaged are produced in huge quantities with the dates printed directly on them. The fresh rice is put into these packets on various dates, but to avoid waste, the Thai exporter does not destroy the packets. Instead, we the importers update the stickers which indicate the real expiration dates."

The Hebrew stickers, by the way, are produced abroad. To prove that he could not be inventing his story, Attar reminded me that two-year-old rice would be crumbling and impossible to cook properly. He also pointed to the strin-

gent inspections made on shipments of food products by the Health Ministry and harsh punishments imposed on violators of regulations.

Not only does an importer have to give a NIS 20,000 bank guarantee to the ministry to hold a license, which is immediately cashed if he violates the terms of the license, but his merchandise can be confiscated and his license suspended or revoked.

"Believe me, it's cheaper to destroy merchandise (e.g. cans of tuna) than to produce labels with misleading information on them," he said. "Ironically, it is the food packages without stickers produced abroad which are not examined closely by the ministry."

Without revealing "trade" secrets, he suggested it is those importers who make their own labels in Israel who can get away with "monkey business."

Chocolate importers, he said, are the worst offenders. But how can the consumer differentiate between labels produced abroad and those made here? Your guess is as good as mine.

If you suspect foul play is involved in foul food, contact the Food Control Administration at the Health Ministry at (03) 563-4782.

You are invited to offer personal stories about goods and services in this country. Write to Ruthie Blum, POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem.

# Long and lean this winter

**S**UMMER is traditionally the season in which we diet like crazy so we can look good in a swimsuit, and winter is the time we let ourselves go, living in the false illusion that with all the padding which is part and parcel of winter dressing, no one will notice a little extra flesh.

The bad news is that this year there's no faking it. Padding is out. Bye-bye shoulder pads. Farewell padded bras. Au revoir the camouflage of loose layering.

Winter 1996/97 will be remembered as the long lean season of slim-fitting pants suits teamed with snug shirts and sweaters.

Styling is spare, but more often soft than severe.

Adornment is generally limited to buttons - in some cases lots of gold, silver or copper col-

## FLAIR GREER FAY CASHMAN

ored buttons to give the semblance of a military look.

This doesn't quite gel with the political pursuit of peace. But then again, fashion and politics are not always on the same wavelength, though fashion often sends out many messages which politicians attempt to deny.

The moral of the story is that if you have overindulged a little during the holidays, now is the time to make amends. You don't have to go on a crash diet, but additional exercise won't go amiss.

If you're not into daily workouts, make sure you go for a brisk one-hour walk every day -

twice a day if possible. It's amazing how much you can keep yourself in trim just by walking. And of course, if you really want to show off that new pants suit, striding through the part of town where most of your friends hang out will be a joy once you've got rid of your overcasted-downments.

By the way, if you want to buy yourself something new before you go on the diet, go for ankle boots - which will soon proliferate on pavements throughout the country at an average price of around NIS 500 to NIS 600 per pair.

If your budget doesn't stretch that far, look for a good reason to go to Jaffa, where more often than not footwear is much more reasonably priced than elsewhere in the country.

# Russia's private bakers raise ire of bread police

**R**USSIAN bread-baking, once the domain of bureaucrats who controlled every kernel of wheat, is increasingly in the hands of entrepreneurs who want a slice of the action in Russia's most important food.

Scores of mini-bakeries have sprung up in Moscow and other cities, with everyone from nuclear physicists to plumbers cashing in on demand for a centuries-old staple that nearly every Russian eats every day.

The boom in private bakeries sits well with customers eager to avoid the lines at formerly state-run bakeries. But it is giving Russia's top bread official indignation.

"Many new businessmen don't have enough specialist education to bake bread," said Igor Chekmezov, head of the government's State Bread Inspectorate, who wants to see baking licensed. "We checked a host of mini-bakeries and found not specialists, but rather everybody from toilet repairman to Academy of Sciences members trying to bake bread."

The inspectorate, otherwise known as Russia's bread police, is a key ingredient in Kremlin policies on grain in the new market economy, advising cabinet officials on everything from price regulation to wheat imports.

"Bread is a special product in Russia - it's holy," Chekmezov said in an interview. "It's in our

genes to relate to it in a particularly careful way."

Private bakers say their recipe for success stems as much from the laws of supply and demand as from the potent symbolism of Russia's most basic food.

The 500 or so mini-bakeries in the capital already supply 12 percent of the city's market, the Moscow Guild of Bakers said.

At Our Bread, a private mini-bakery in central Moscow, 22-year-old director Alexei Nikishov said business was rising.

Standing on a flour-dusted floor as three women poked poppy seeds and raisins into buns, he said, "I've learned all this myself, and if I had to turn out the sweet rolls or loaves without any help, I could."

Such free, deregulated use of grain - a commodity Lenin once called "the currency of currencies" - was unheard of in the Soviet era, when officials tracked the movement of every parcel.

Now farmers are largely free to sell most of their wheat as they wish, and imports of flour have soared.

That worries Chekmezov, a man who remembered how Russians went wild eating the soft centers of loaves when World War II ended after years of starvation-level rations.

He said his private mini-bakeries - unlike Our Bread - sold their goods from dusty wooden crates in filthy sur-

roundings outside rat-infested train stations and ramshackle kiosks.

Much Russian bread these days crumbles or is stale - a sign of low gluten, the protein that distinguishes bread-making wheat from cattle feed.

The State Health Inspectorate estimated that more than a third of mini-bakeries in Moscow violate sanitation norms.

"There is cause for alarm, with some elements that are banned in the West being used in baking these days," Chekmezov said, adding that some Russian bread had shown high levels of salts, heavy metals, pesticides and additives.

While Chekmezov said quality at some of the new bakeries was debatable, he credited the openly-open grain trade, including private mini-bakeries, with allowing some regions to avoid the notorious bread-rationing coupons familiar in recent decades.

Russian imports of wheat flour, mostly from Eastern Europe, Kazakhstan and Ukraine, rose nearly 20-fold from July 1995 to June 1996 to nearly one million tonnes compared with levels a year ago - testimony to growing output by private bakeries.

"This is the third year in a row we're going to have a bad harvest, and we're getting by thanks to the developing grain trade," Chekmezov said. (Reuter)

# Cellphones are close to our hearts - but what if you have a pacemaker?

**C**ELLULAR telephones are safe for wearers of cardiac pacemakers if used properly, a study group backed by the wireless-communications industry said this week.

Wireless Technology Research said users should keep cell phones at least 15 centimeters from their pacemakers and, if the phones are turned on, not place them over pacemakers - in breast pockets, for example.

It said it had found the phones to pose no threat to bystanders with

pacemakers.

Chairman George Carlo told a news conference the group had been formed to study the effect on pacemakers of radio transmissions from cellular phones after reports from Europe and Australia said the phones had sped the devices up or slowed them down.

He said that although no cases of adverse health reactions had been reported, the study had been commissioned because of the "potential" health problem.

While the group was funded by

the cellular phone industry, its scientists had been isolated from it and their work put under peer review, he said.

"If the pacemaker wearer uses the phone to our recommendations, there should not be a risk of interference," Carlo told the news conference.

He estimated that about 100,000 people with pacemakers were potential regular users of wireless phones.

He said there was no evidence that cordless phones used in homes

posed a risk to pacemaker wearers.

The Food and Drug Administration said in a statement at a symposium before the news conference that a federal study had found that the vast majority of phones tested did not interact with pacemakers at a distance of 15 centimeters or more.

The FDA backed the 15-centimeter rule but said it would review the relationship between cellular phones and pacemakers after other studies had been completed. (Reuter)

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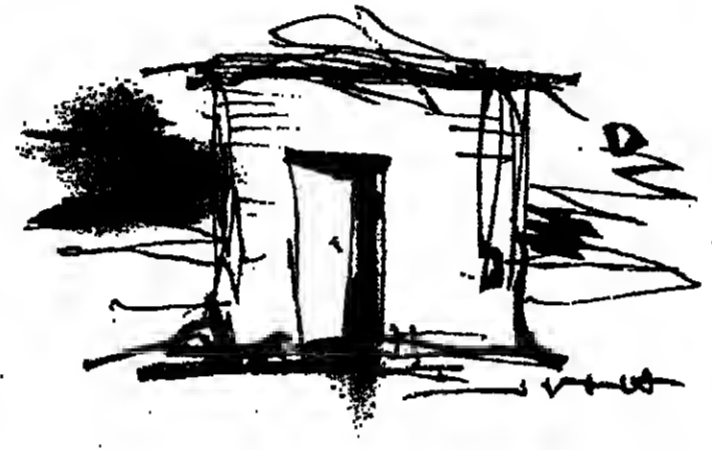
Dear Ruthie, I am 27 years old and single. I am emotional every time I get angry. To be frank, I am not happy in my life. I have many friends but I am not an outgoing type of person like they are. Can you advise me what to do? I know I am still young and I want to feel real happiness.

LEAH ABRAMOWITZ

PROF. Yehuda Feliks is used to taking a controversial stand on flora and fauna in the Bible. The Four Species that symbolize Succot - the lulav, the etrog, the willow and the myrtle - are repeatedly given homiletic and moral interpretations in Jewish folklore: categories of Jews, parts of the body, degree of religiosity, etc.



of water," Feliks points out. "So do the other species that we bless on this holiday - the lulav, the myrtle and the etrog."



Cold War lingers in Berlin bedrooms

THE Cold War divisions that split Berlin may have disappeared from its streets and skyline in the seven years since the Berlin Wall fell, but another kind of cold war still lingers in the city's bedrooms.

Intermarriage rates are studied closely by anthropologists, who can gauge a society's readiness to integrate based on whether or not women of the native group mate, or are permitted to, with men from groups or societies from the "outside."

literally prefers separate bedrooms to a single king-sized bed. At the heart of the matter are their divergent views of the world. West Berliners have a markedly different Weltanschauung from their brethren raised on the eastern side of the Berlin Wall, the 160-kilometer barrier which divided the city between 1961 and 1989.

"Eastern men don't always feel they have to be the center of attention like Westies," she added. "They think they know everything and that they have to teach us everything. They treat us like we're all dumb."

East Germans actually miss 'the good old days'

HE looks like Erich Honecker. Dresses, walks, and talks like Erich Honecker. And he even winks to the crowds like him.

"Before it was something of a burden. But now I am filling a market niche," he added, smiling at his use of free-market terminology that is still new to the east.

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Moshe Ma'oz examines the history of relations between Israel and Syria throughout the Middle Eastern conflict, demonstrating its crucial importance for the strategic posture of both countries, for the fate of the Palestinian problem, and for the prospects of an overall Middle East peace settlement.

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Advertisement for 'The Pomegranate Pendant' with book cover image and contact information.

At least now we can stop asking ourselves the question: Who is Binjamin Netanyahu? The debate on whether he was a right-wing ideologue or merely ambitious, an empty opportunist who would do whatever was necessary to get along.

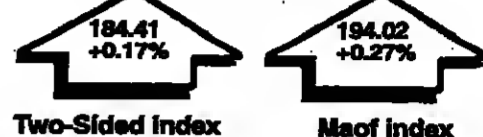




Shares little changed as investors wait

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ROBERT DANIEL



SHARES were little changed yesterday as investors waited for the results of the Washington summit...

European markets zoom to new highs

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON (Reuters) - European stocks drove to new heights yesterday, with London, Frankfurt and Amsterdam scaling new peaks...

Europe's other major equity market, Paris, pushed forward nearly one percent, while in Asia Hong Kong had its best finish since the end of the five-month high...

The US open gave the dollar a lift, but it's now running into some profit-taking at these levels, said a German bank dealer...

Dow shatters record

WALL STREET REPORT

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Stocks shattered more records yesterday, aided by renewed vigor in technology shares and follow-through buying in financial issues...

CURRENCY CROSS-RATES

Table with columns: R, MARK, STERLING, YEN, SF, FF. Lists various currency exchange rates.

TEL AVIV STOCKS

Large table of stock prices and changes, categorized into Multi-sided trading and Two-sided trading. Includes columns for Name, Price, Change, Volume, and % Change.

ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

SOURCE:

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

Table of international stock prices for various countries including New York, London, Frankfurt, and others.

Key Representative Rates table showing US dollar, Sterling, and Mark rates against NIS.

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

New York market indexes table showing DJ Industrial, NYSE, and other index values.

Other stock market indexes table showing FTSE 100, Nikkei, and other international indices.

ISRAELI STOCKS IN NY

Table of Israeli stocks listed on the NYSE, including companies like Bank Leumi and Azura.

NYSE/AMEX Last Change table showing price changes for various Israeli stocks.

INTEL MONEY MARKETS

Dollar crossrates (US) table showing exchange rates for various currencies.

Labor rates table showing interest rates for different terms.

Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd. Futures, Options, Stocks, Bonds and Mutual Funds.

INTEL COMMODITIES AND METALS

US commodities table showing prices for oil, wheat, and other goods.

London commodities table showing prices for various metals and goods.

Spot market metals (US) table showing prices for gold, silver, and platinum.

New York metal futures table showing prices for various metal contracts.

London metal futures table showing prices for metal futures contracts.

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BRIEFS

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Yields

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Water park

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Money market

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